

From: Paul Pelzl
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:08pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am an electrical engineering graduate student who has logged many hours both using and programming computers. I have used Microsoft operating systems as well as several Open Source operating systems, and thus am intimately aware of the difficulties associated with making a transition away from Microsoft software. I feel strongly that the proposed Microsoft settlement will do little to repair the damage of past monopolistic practices, or to prevent future antitrust law violations.

I see many problems with the proposed settlement, but I will bring up just one important issue here. Microsoft Office file formats have become the industry standard. Consequently, it is impossible to correspond with many businesses without the use of MS Word and MS Excel files. I believe that a fair settlement must require Microsoft to open up the specifications for these file formats (both present and future versions), so that competing software products can interact with these files. Without this additional action, I see little hope for fair competition in the office software market.

Thank you for your attention. Sincerely,

Paul Pelzl

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